

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments shown above and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the amendments, this application will contain claims 14-15, 18-30, 36-38 and 46-61 pending and under consideration. The above amendments simply accept the allowable subject matter indicated in the Office Action, and add dependent claims upon the allowable independent claims (by adding new claims or switching the dependency of existing claims). It is thus believed that all issues are removed and that this application is in condition for passage to allowance.

On the issue of support for new claims 46-61, these claims are supported in the original claim set (identifying collagenous extracellular matrix materials) and in the specification at page 8 (submucosal tissues) and at page 10 (porcine source). Additional support is found throughout the specification and original claims. No new matter is introduced by these claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

To address the claim rejections under 35 USC 112:

Claim 4: This claim has been cancelled;

Claim 16: “lumen” has been changed to “tube”;

Claim 22: a period has been added.

Claim 23: “the second biocompatible material” has been changed to “a second biocompatible material”;

Claim 26: “the collagenous biocompatible material” has been changed to “the sheet of collagenous biocompatible material”;

Claim 27: a formation of a tube as been recited in claim 26;

Claim 30: “lumen” has been changed to “tube”;

Claim 31: this claim has been cancelled;

Claim 33: this claim has been cancelled;

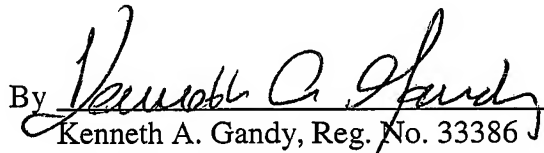
Claim 42: this claim has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103

As noted above, the claims pending at the time of the Office Action have been amended so as to accept the allowable subject matter indicated at the top of page 7 of the Office Action. To accomplish this, the limitations of the independent and intervening claims have been incorporated into the dependent claims indicated to be allowable. It is therefore believed that the rejections have been overcome, without prejudice in any subsequent prosecution of the prior pending claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is solicited. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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